

e. 22,436

S. 23,155

Front Page	Edit Page	Other Page
---------------	--------------	---------------

Haley Thinks Congress Needs Watchdog For CIA

WASHINGTON — Bad blood of our military services," Haley and disagreement among United States agencies in South Viet Nam has been denied officially, but the fact remains that the head of Central Intelligence Agency operations in that country has been called home for "consultations," U. S. Rep. James Haley said in his newsletter today to his constituents.

"It is significant that the recall of the CIA chief followed promptly the return of Defense Secretary McNamara and Gen. Maxwell D. Taylor from an investigation of affairs in South Viet Nam. One of the things they investigated was the fact that after President Kennedy ordered a halt to foreign aid funds for South Viet Nam, CIA went blithely ahead with its own version of a foreign aid program. This resulted in the pouring into South Viet Nam of many millions of dollars in direct contravention of policy sent by the President, Haley said.

Excess Secrecy Hit

"The facts concerning CIA are exceedingly hard to come by, and properly so. No reasonable person would expect this intelligence agency to publicize its every operation. Obviously, any such policy would destroy such usefulness as it may have.

"But I think it equally obvious that an excess of secrecy is good neither for the country nor the CIA which, under present arrangements, is not even accountable to The Congress—and apparently not even to the President.

"Even the top secret Atomic Energy Commission comes under the view of a joint committee of The Congress, members of which committee are able to influence, defend, attack or interpret AEC policies without exposing any of its closely-guarded secrets. Similarly, congressional committees have access to the top secret plans and operations

of our military services," Haley said.

"I believe that a joint congressional committee, similar to that which keeps a legislative check on AEC affairs, is a necessity. Proposals to establish such a "watchdog" group have been repeatedly pigeon-holed in Congress in the past, in the face of frantic CIA opposition. But I think The Congress should be prompted by current events to establish such a committee now. It is not proper, indeed, it is not even safe in a democracy to have any agency clothed with vast powers over which Congress has no check.

"The need for this supervision is, I think, shown by the fact that CIA was established some years ago as a fact-finding agency—an espionage agency, if you will—but somehow has managed behind its cover of secrecy to convert itself into a policy-making organization so powerful that it can thumb its nose at the President himself.

"CIA's record (both as a fact-finder and a policy-maker) in the Cuban situation does not exactly provide grounds for a great confidence in the agency. It seems to me the time has come to impose at least sufficient congressional supervision to guarantee public confidence that CIA operates effectively—and stays within the bounds of its avowed mission," Haley said.